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The Rokita Report

Office of Indiana Secretary of State Todd Rokita



From the desk of Secretary Rokita

A local financial professional persuades his friends, neighbors and other clients to invest in bogus investment funds. The financial professional makes promises of returns on investment, yet the investors are left wondering when they will see the promised returns. Beginning to realize the victims and authorities are on to his fraudulent transactions, the man charts a private plane, allegedly crashes the plane in an effort to fake his own death and leads authorities on a multi-state manhunt.

This criminal storyline did not unfold within the pages of a hardback; rather, it happened in Indiana. Marcus Schrenker, who has been under investigation by my Securities Division, is the financial professional in the story. Unlike many stories where the criminals get away, Schrenker's story should end with him receiving his just-deserts.

In the coming weeks, Schrenker will go before a [Hamilton County Superior Court](#) judge and plead guilty to five counts of fraudulent sales of securities - all Class C felonies, according to a signed [plea agreement](#).

The [plea agreement](#) is the direct result of the hard work and professionalism exhibited by both the Hamilton County Prosecutor's office and my office's [Securities Division](#). Within hours of the local and national media reports alerting viewers about Schrenker's deceptive dealings, my securities team was able to provide information to a court in order to freeze Schrenker's assets and establish a receivership that will ultimately enable many of his victims to recoup some of their financial losses.

According to the terms of the signed [plea agreement](#), Schrenker will face the possibility serving of 14 years in prison - 10 years for his crimes in Indiana and four years already handed down by a federal judge related to crashing his plane. Should the judge accept the agreement, Schrenker will be serving these sentences in the prime of his life. Upon his release and during a term of

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[Indiana's Rokita: Watch out for these top 10 investor scams](#)

[Secretary of State honored by Taiwan for teacher exchange](#)

— Quick Pic

probation, he will be expected to become a working member of society again and pay back the financial losses he caused to his victims.

Important to note is that some of Schrenker's investment scams were based on [affinity fraud](#) - a type of investment scam that uses membership or association with an identifiable group to convince a potential investor to trust the authenticity of the investment. Schrenker used his relationship with fellow pilots to gain their trust and persuaded them to invest.



Secretary Rokita receives Taiwan's highest honor, the Friend of Foreign Service Medal, on Friday, Aug. 13, 2010. Director General Perry Pei-hwang Shen presented the award to Secretary Rokita during an afternoon ceremony in Chicago.

As the case against Schrenker begins to come to an end, a clear message can be taken away from this story - securities fraud in Indiana will be prosecuted, and violators will be held criminally accountable. My office continues to work as Indiana's investment watchdog and will carry on protecting Hoosiers against deceptive professionals looking to take advantage of individuals' financial wealth.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd Rokita".

Protect Your Pockets

When people join online dating sites, they are generally looking for companionship, not a good investment opportunity. When they join business networking sites, they want to find contacts, not fall for a scam. Unfortunately cases of investment fraud that started out in unexpected places like dating sites and social networking sites are popping up more and more. As technology continues to advance, fraudsters are adopting more unconventional approaches to soliciting victims and Hoosiers need to be aware of what to look out for to avoid falling prey to these scams.

To read this month's complete [Protect Your Pockets](#) newsletter click [here](#). For more investment and money management tips, visit www.IndianaInvestmentWatch.com.

Voter registration at Indiana State Fair increases by 37 percent

Close to 60 percent of registrants used state's new online voter registration tool

The number of Hoosiers registering to vote at the Indiana State Fair this year increased by 37 percent over last year, with more than half of this year's registrants taking advantage of the [state's new online voter registration tool](#).



According to the Secretary Rokita's [Help America Vote Act](#) team, more than 164 individuals registered to vote at this year's state fair, representing a 37 percent increase over last year's state fair registration.

"Our experience at the State Fair shows how better accessibility and a simpler registration process can answer the needs of today's voter and be the driving forces behind increased participation," Secretary Rokita said. "Indiana is the prime example of a state embracing technology - and the intended goal to streamline state government operations while continuing to give Hoosiers solid results is being achieved."

Of the 164 Hoosiers registered to vote at the state fair, 100

individuals utilized the state's new online voter registration portal - the latest addition to www.indianavoters.com - while 64 registered using the traditional paper application.

Launched on July 1, the state's [online voter registration portal](#) allows Hoosiers to complete a voter registration form or update their current voter information. Applicants are required to verify their voting eligibility and personal information, which is then cross-referenced with databases from the [Bureau of Motor Vehicles](#). Voters will instantly receive a confirmation of their application that they can print. Once confirmed online, the county's voter registration office will approve or reject registrations subject to the same criteria used for other applicants, such as residency or incarceration following conviction of a crime.

Nearly two months after being unveiled, more than 3,740 new voter registrations or updated forms have been submitted using the new online tool.

Indiana residents have until midnight on Monday, October 4, 2010, to register in order to participate in the November 2010 General Election. For more information on voter eligibility and online voter services, please call the Hoosier Voter Hotline at (866) IN-1-VOTE or visit www.indianavoters.com.

Indiana Secretary of State Todd Rokita receives highest honor from Taiwan

Indiana Secretary of State Todd Rokita was recently awarded the [Friend of Foreign Service Medal](#) from Taiwan in recognition for his leadership and diplomatic efforts in building a strong partnership with the overseas country.

"Receiving this award is an honor and privilege marking Indiana and Taiwan's continued, steadfast commitment in forging new economic opportunities, innovative solutions to today's problems and the mutual chance for success within both of our societies," Secretary Rokita said.

Awarded by the Taiwanese government, the Friend of Foreign Service Medal recognizes individuals for their significant contributions to the relations between Taiwan and the United States.

Secretary Rokita was instrumental in coordinating the first international teacher exchange between Indiana and Taiwan in 2004. This exchange resulted in a significant increase in Hoosier students enrolling in Chinese language classes. Continually, the exchange led Indiana to become the first state to adopt grade-level standards specific to Chinese, Japanese and Korean languages for grades K-12.

In addition, Secretary Rokita was also recognized for his support in the developments between Taiwan and Indiana in the areas of agriculture, business and culture.



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